UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/328
5 September 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-first session
Item 11 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Letter dated 4 September 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 4 September 1996 from Mr. Mohammed Saïd Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, addressed to you, concerning the aggression perpetrated against Iraq by the United States of America on 3 and 4 September 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 11 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/51/150.

96-23084 (E) 060996 060996 070996

/...

ANNEX

Letter dated 4 September 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

At about 9 a.m., local time, on Tuesday, 3 September 1996, United States forces launched, under direct order from the President of the United States of America, a missile attack against Iraq using 27 cruise missiles. They also launched another missile attack early this morning, 4 September 1996, using 17 cruise missiles. These two attacks have resulted in loss of life among civilians and in material damage and destruction. This armed aggression was preceded by a large-scale misinformation and distortion campaign in order to prepare the stage at the international level, without regard for any moral principle or the need for responsible behaviour by a permanent member of the Security Council.

The premeditated military action constitutes a blatant act of armed aggression against Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq requests the United Nations to condemn this premeditated armed aggression and to charge the United States of America with the full international responsibility ensuing from it under international law.

I take this opportunity to draw attention to the two no-fly zones imposed on Iraq. It is well known that in 1991 the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France imposed a no-fly zone to the north of the 36th parallel in northern Iraq, under the pretext of protecting the Kurds there. In August 1992, those three States imposed another no-fly zone, to the south of the 32nd parallel, under the pretext of protecting Shiites in southern Iraq. In his statement of 3 September 1996, the American President declared the extension of the no-fly zone in southern Iraq northwards, as far as the suburbs of the capital, Baghdad. This American position was endorsed by the United Kingdom. On several occasions in the past, the Iraqi Government has declared that the imposition of the two no-fly zones is a unilateral, continuing act of armed aggression which threatens Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The facts have proven that the purpose of the imposition of the two no-fly zones is to continue the acts of violence and aggression against Iraq and to gravely threaten its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. For five years, the United Nations has taken no action regarding this unilateral aggressive conduct of the United States and the United Kingdom. This has encouraged the United States and the United Kingdom to continue their unjust aggression against Iraq by unilaterally declaring the extension of the southern no-fly zone. We request the United Nations to reject and condemn this action as it violates the Charter. For our part, we declared on 3 September 1996 that the illusory lines to the north of the 36th parallel and to the south of the 32nd parallel are considered null and void, and Iraq will act on this basis. The Government of the Republic of Iraq charges the States

which unilaterally took this measure with international responsibility for the damage inflicted upon Iraq as a result of it, and with international responsibility for any action resulting from the continuation of the said measure.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 11 of the provisional agenda.